

Series Tru and Klapp

Win – win

**Excerpt from the science fiction short story series:
"Reflections of Professors Tru and Klapp**

or

Scientific Dialogues on the Tachyon-shore of the Ocean of Manyworlds"

Out of greatest respect for the fixed stars:
In memoriam Plato, Stanisław Lem, A.A. Milne

"The Perfect Roadmap for Drawing Scientific Conclusions

*Summary of Professor Tru's critical views
concerning the general working method of the Academy of Sciences of the
Onebigworld
(Scientific essay)*

Abstract: *The inescapable basic assumptions and premises, without which the difference between the work of properly systematizing scientific facts and lying in a half-comatic mushroom-delirious state shrinks to a size invisible to the naked eye, are the following ..."*

– The shit stinks for that purpose, that we avoid eat it. It's a scientific fact – professor Klapp firmly states it one afternoon, lying on the veranda somewhat already under the influence of manna, after a slightly muddled and rather hopeless-looking discussion of a bio-philosophical theory with Professor Tru, with what he just prevented Tru in writing the above-quoted scientific essay regarding the highly critical analysis of academic awkwardness.

That this statement was made after, rather than during the debate was of course only revealed when Tru took a right-angled turn from the hitherto pleasant flow of the basic dispute – which then became for him uninteresting – and went wild.

– Now, that's what I'm talking about! How even relatively highly educated minds – let's consider yours for a moment to be that – are incapable of even adhering to the basic requirements of a roadmap of a scientific conclusion! I should be writing my essay on this very subject instead of wasting my time with you! – Tru, meanwhile, with his manna bottle in his hand, is waving it dangerously close to Klapp's nose. But Klapp knows his friend well and his impulsive nature, so he doesn't even pull back his endangered part of his body, just sips his own drink defensively and asks back:

– Specifically?

– Fffffffh! – Tru blows out her breath in great anger and continues: – That statement is the perfect veterinary horse. Adorned with all troubles. Pro primo. This claim is not scientific fact. It is false knowledge, originating from the constant repetition of a bloody big mistake. Taking a scientific view would immediately reveal that the thing, if it were connected at all, could only be the other way even round for historical reasons alone: we don't eat it because it stinks. Namely for us. And, pro secundo, you can see right away that this is not true either, because what is smelly and what is not is entirely subjective - manure has a certain chemical smell, and specifically this smell is perceived as unpleasant by many intelligent entities. But others don't. They even roll in it. Period. That's the fact in it. Nothing more.

– I accept that the chemical scent was not given to the excrement by a higher power, targeted at us. I also accept that stinkiness is not an objective concept. But I cannot accept that a particular smell is good or bad just for its own sake! Yes, I believe that the perception of smell has evolved through biological history and that the reason



why certain odours have been associated with negative feelings is to avoid eating the raw materials that give them off.

- That sounds nice, it's just not true! Offhand I can tell you straight away some damn good smelling things that can be deadly to eat, and some damn stinky things that are healing, even essential.

- Tell me!

- Cyan versus cod liver oil, mancinella apple versus durians...

- What the hell is a mancinella apple? Something that smells good but is poisonous?? Okay, okay, let's not get into it! You're right, I understand. You have some good examples. But how does that override the idea that smelly things basically are smelly for the purpose to prevent to eat them?

- That doesn't override it, you horse. These examples only demonstrate that there is no necessary correlation between smell and edibility. And if there is even one example that disproves a scientific claim, then that claim has been refuted, so it needs to be restated. Do you understand?

- So, you think we can even eat the shit?

- From a scientific point of view, if you wanted to decide that based on stink alone, yes. Nota bene, several other species eat it, and it even happens among us in certain medical procedures... In some cases, alien faeces are specifically implanted when someone's own biome is very extinct for some reason. Do you want me to tell you that, you, who yourself are a biologist?

- Well.... I don't know. You got me thinking. But I'm not convinced.

- See?! This is what makes me nervous! That I derive a concrete process, a logical formula, the result comes out, my listener seems to understand all the steps, and at the end he shrugs a little and with a sideways-tilted head says "...I don't believe...".

- May such a student perish! – Klapp nods in bloody-serious agreement.

Tru becomes suspicious.

- Are you laughing at me now!?

- Most definitely! – Klapp is now grinning unconcealed. – But I love you!

- Get out of here, but immediately! Here you are drinking my manna and you have your own opinion!? Which, moreover, is even faulty? – Tru is laughing at himself, too.

The two friends get up and start to fry the ten-dimensional fish they caught that morning on the tachyon beach in peace.

Thus remained the essay "*The Perfect Roadmap of Scientific Conclusions*" – interrupted halfway through its abstract – unwritten, consequently the *Academy of Sciences of the Onebigworld* remained happily unaware of the correct way of working according to Tru, and therefore Tru remained the full member of the Academy.

Everybody won the case. It's called a win-win situation.

That is, until Tru hears the phrase, because of his inherent profound unscientificness, he has some indiscriminate nasty words for the phrase.

But that is a story of another afternoon.